

# UNIFIED news

December 2011

## Ask Dr. Roach . . .

**Q.** Are you concerned about cost-saving measures affecting student achievement?

**A.** Educating students is our reason for being, so yes, all District staff, from long-time employees to first-year teachers, from site administrators to us at the District Office, are focused on keeping student achievement high despite the need to slash a potential \$10.6 million from the 2012-13 budget.

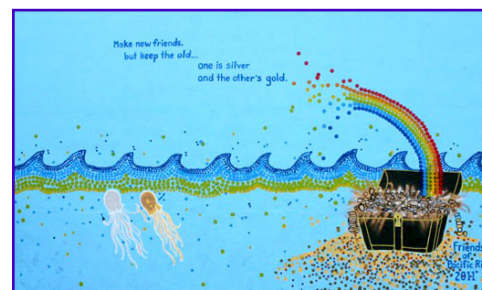
Our five Board members, all of whom have had or currently have children in our schools, face a particularly difficult challenge: finding ways to make cuts that will have the least negative impact on students, staff, schools and the community. One Trustee summed up the sentiment of all when she said, "There's nothing on this [cost-cutting] list that I like. We're going to have to do some things we don't want to do."

I applaud each Carlsbad Unified employee for continuing to keep the focus on student achievement during this difficult time. That our kids continue to excel is a testament to our great staff.

Thank you!

John A. Roach, Ed.D.  
District Superintendent

## Artful Academics



Are arts related to smarts? Research points to the correlation of music, visual and performing arts education to academic achievement and also to the importance of non-cognitive skills in today's economy. Arne Duncan, U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan has stated, "In the information age, a well-rounded curriculum is not a luxury, but a necessity."



Pacific Rim successfully rides the wave of both academics and the arts. The school has achieved an API of 900+ since 2007 and the District's highest API for the last four consecutive years.

Principal Robert Devich believes the two aspects are complementary, as does Artist-in-Residence Dominique Babcock, mom of two former and one current Wave Rider.

*The confidence students gain through the arts gives them confidence in academics and in life.*

She says, "Here at Pac Rim, academics come first, but the efforts are synergistic. Under the direction of Mr. Devich, the teachers and I make it all work for our kids."

Recently, all 852 K-5 students created a mural on a handball wall displaying the adage, "Make new friends but keep the old; the one is silver and the other's gold." The school currently is using grants to pursue seasonal canvasses and a mosaic based on a children's book written by a student's uncle.

The performing arts are thriving under Drama Teacher Amy Lavea, who rotates throughout classrooms to teach performing, speaking and other elements. The students are learning not just how to perform and project, but how to be confident, Dominique Babcock says. "The confidence gained through the arts gives them confidence in academics and in life."

### Some Financial Links

Discover how Los Angeles Unified School District is raising revenue by thinking outside the box and on the bus:  
[http://www.dailybreeze.com/news/ci\\_19381673](http://www.dailybreeze.com/news/ci_19381673)

A new poll reveals that 64% of Californians are willing to pay higher taxes to boost funding for public schools:  
<http://www.latimes.com/news/local/la-me-poll-schools-20111120,0,6181051.story>

Current Carlsbad Unified financial information is at <http://carlsbadusdbusiness.blogspot.com/>.

## HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

While you're enjoying Winter Break, workers at Carlsbad High will be busy as elves completing the five new classroom complexes, Lancer Plaza and other campus areas that will be ready to welcome students and staff when they return on January 9, 2012.



CHS Principal Matt Steitz points out the construction of Lancer Plaza.



## Classified Excellence

Unified News is proud to introduce the current Classified Employee of the Month to you in each issue. Employees are nominated by site administrators for consistently performing above and beyond in the scope of their jobs.

### Congratulations to November 2011 Classified Employee of the Month: Carol Fredericks



Carol Fredericks and Anahi.

Calavera Hills Middle School Principal Catina Hancock calls her "an integral part of our learning community" who "has a gift for connecting with students" and "exemplifies the professionalism that we look for in all of our employees."

Students Anahi calls her "a nice lady. I really like her." Fellow student Adriana agrees, saying, "She helps me and she's very nice."

In light of all these accolades, how does Special Education Instructional Assistant Carol Frederick see herself? Saying she was totally surprised to be named Classified Employee of November, Carol modestly states, "I simply do what the job calls for."

This year, Carol, a six-year District employee, works with CHMS students with special needs in sixth-grade English and eighth-grade math classes. Principal Hancock relates, "Carol has had wonderful success working with students with various special needs. Her behavior management is superb and her knowledge of curriculum is evident in her daily practice. She adapts the modality and pace of instruction based on the unique needs of learners under her guidance. Carol's skills, enthusiasm and dedication are appreciated by our students, staff and parents."

Carol expresses her dedication to her work in three concise words: "It's very rewarding."

## In the GREEN

Staff at all sites have demonstrated their commitment to the environment and the District's bottom line by conserving 23% in electricity, natural gas and water between March 2009-August 2011. This percentage exceeds our 20% goal and equates to a projected financial savings of more than \$1 million.

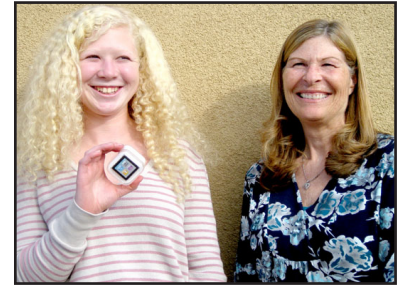
Devin Vodicka, Ed.D., Assistant Superintendent, Business Services, notes, "Our projected fiscal deficit would be even larger if it were not for the savings we have realized through this conservation program. We are demonstrating fiscal and environmental responsibility, both of which are important in terms of commitment to serving students."

In November, a Good Stewardship Award was presented to the Board by Marc Starkey, Vice President of Energy Education, Inc., an energy conservation company with which CUSD began consulting in April 2008. We look forward to maintaining a high "green" standard in the years ahead.



Energy Conservation Manager Darin Vey and Marc Starkey.

## Incentives Give Tdap Program a Shot in the Arm



Lauren with Health Tech Kim Lane.

"And the winner of the iPod Nano is ... Lauren!" The raffle filmed live at Valley on November 18th (see it at <http://www.schooltube.com/channel/vmstv/>) echoed drawings held at CHMS, AOMS and Carlsbad High. The fun was part of a serious and successful effort to ensure compliance with the law requiring students entering 7th-12th grade to obtain the tetanus, diphtheria and pertussis (Tdap) vaccine before starting school this fall.

Last spring, District Nurse Julia Hart-Lawson asked Rotary District 5340 to incentivize families by purchasing six iPods; one for each middle school and three for the high school. She relates, "Every student who complied with the new Tdap regulation by getting either the vaccine (preferable) or waiver by June 10, 2011 was eligible for the drawing. As a result of the raffle and teamwork of site health techs, the District achieved greater than 99% compliance, including a perfect 100% at Valley Middle School!"

Julia was one of three nurses countywide to receive the prestigious Paul Harris Award from Rotary District 5340 and San Diego County Board of Supervisor Greg Cox. Six lucky students are enjoying their new iPods. Most importantly, people are healthier and safer thanks to the immunizations. As Valley Principal Cesar Morales notes, "Complying with this important health regulation has made all of our students and families winners."

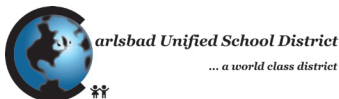
## Easy Ways to Conserve at Home

Here are a few of the many simple things you can do at home to conserve. For more tips, contact [dvey@carlsbadusd.net](mailto:dvey@carlsbadusd.net).

- Seal drafty windows with plastic.
- Keep the oven door shut while cooking so the temperature doesn't drop.
- Keep your freezer full for added efficiency.
- When purchasing a new appliance, choose an Energy Star-approved model.
- Turn off your computer when not in use and turn off lights (use CFL bulbs) in unoccupied rooms.
- Repair leaky faucets and toilets, take shorter showers and turn off the water while brushing your teeth.
- Turn off your outdoor irrigation system during and after it rains. Check out other water-saving methods at [www.bewaterwise.com/](http://www.bewaterwise.com/).

### CELEBRATE DECEMBER'S DISTRICT-WIDE CHARACTER TRAIT: CARING!

Carlsbad Unified School District incorporates District-Wide Character Traits into the academic curriculum. Each month's trait is taught in a grade level-appropriate way by trained teachers at all elementary and middle schools.



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